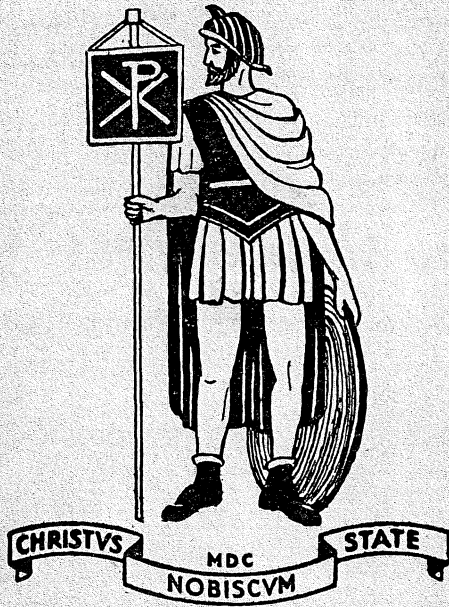


The

# Alcester Grammar



# School Record

July 1948

# Alcester

## Grammar School Record.

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No. 90

July, 1948.

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*Editor*—MR. V. V. DRULLER

COMMITTEE :

SONIA SHORE, MARY ROWLAND, JOSEPHINE FINDON, MARY BURROWS,  
PRESTIDGE, STEVENI.

### EDITORIAL.

Another term is rapidly drawing to a close. For some it marks the end of schooldays, and we wish to bring to their notice the Old Scholars Guild. This organisation is open to all former pupils of the school, when they reach the age of sixteen. No formal application for membership is necessary. Any old scholar wishing to become a member should attend one of the Reunions at the School, and the Secretary will be pleased to enrol him. It is hoped that most of those leaving school this term will become members. The date of the Winter Reunion will be announced in next term's RECORD.

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This has been a busy, if a somewhat broken term. Holidays for the Royal Silver Wedding, for Whitsuntide, and for halfterm have to some extent interfered with the work of the classrooms, and preparations for Sports Day—the great event of the summer—have made further inroads into lesson time. This year, an innovation has been introduced into the Sports, in that the girls have had an opportunity of taking part and showing their prowess in races and other events arranged for them. An interval of comparatively fine weather in the midst of rain and cold, blustering winds, allowed the Sports to be carried through to the end and all those competing to put up a display worthy of the traditions of the school. Then, July has brought examinations for all; for the majority the terminals, and for the senior forms the Higher School and School Certificate examinations.

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The magazine committee are most anxious to maintain the standard of interest of the RECORD and appeal to all —both present and former scholars—to help them in their efforts. Articles by Old Scholars are eagerly read by subscribers, and the committee appeal to the many Old Scholars who have been contributors in their school days to assist them with further articles. Space is always available for such contributions, which will be heartily welcomed.

**MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER**

As a newcomer among you, I am taking this opportunity presented by the issue of this term's RECORD to send my greetings to you all, and especially to all Old Scholars; for although I hope by the time this RECORD is published to have met many of you at the Reunion on July 17th, there will be some of you who will not be able to come to Alcester on that day; and to them I should like to make myself known in this way.

I should like first to thank you for the warmth of your welcome expressed by your committee when I arrived at the beginning of the year. I was very glad to see the flourishing state of the Old Scholars Guild and to find so much hard work being done by your committee to renew contacts which had inevitably been lost during the war years.

School is a society consisting not only of the current generation of pupils but of the ever growing number of those who have passed through its hands. I feel it is important therefore that the Old Scholars Guild should flourish as it does and fitting that its activities should be centred on the school. Its committee meets there: we have been glad to see those who live in the neighbourhood visiting the tennis courts this summer; we are looking forward to playing your tennis and cricket teams later in the term; and we hope to hold a debate here against you next term.

The School always hopes that its contribution to your lives does not end when you leave us, and we are always glad of opportunities to help whenever we can. In the same way we hope that you will continue to keep in touch with us and will revisit us not only on the big occasions like the Reunion but on any passing occasion which brings you to Alcester.

In conclusion I should like to say something of the aims which the School sets before itself and all of you. For many centuries the Grammar Schools of this country have maintained the ideal of imparting to each succeeding generation what used to be called godliness and good learning. I have always felt that those simple words contain the whole essence of what a school should aim to give to the minds and characters of its pupils. To-day they are more badly needed than ever before; for in this country, as elsewhere in the world, the external moral standards of honesty and service, good faith and loyalty, fair dealing and justice are in danger, in the squalid struggle of every man for himself, of being ignored, forgotten and decried; while the old intellectual standards of integrity and thoroughness, accuracy and clear thought in the pursuit of truth are despised and condemned as "academic" even by many who profess to be enlightened educationalists. A country cannot long live which turns its back on those moral standards which have been set up by centuries of the thought and wisdom of the finest minds and spirits of our Western civilization; nor will it long survive if it leaves even the most highly educated of its people

without the means to pick their own way and guide the feet of others through the morass of lying propaganda and misleading half-truths which beset our path to-day.

To those of you now in the School, to those about to leave and those who have already left, I would therefore say — let “godliness and good learning” in the sense in which I have spoken of them, be your aim while you are in the School, and in the world outside let them still be your ideal, so that by the standards you set yourselves of moral and intellectual integrity you may be marked as those who have been truly educated.

C. F. R. Ackland

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### SCHOOL REGISTER

#### Valete

\*Budden, M. (VI), 1939-48

Haynes, T. W. G. (Low. Vb), 1941-48

Canning, M. (Upp. Va), 1942-48

Pinfield, E. M. (Low. Vb), 1944-48

Forbes, J. (Upp. Va), 1948

#### \*Prefect

#### Salve

Miller, A. R. (Upp. IVa)

There have been 305 pupils in attendance this term

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### THE OLD SCHOLARS' GUILD

#### Secretary:

Mr. P. E. Wheeler

#### President:

Mr. J. S. C. Wright

#### Treasurer:

Mr. R. B. Biddle

The Committee sends greetings and best wishes to all old Scholars wherever they may be.

### SUMMER RE-UNION

The above Reunion will be held at the School on Saturday, the 17th July 1948. The Committee have made every effort to make the programme an attractive one and details will, by the time this news comes to hand, have reached each Old Scholar whose present address is known.

A feature of the afternoon will be the presence of Mr. and Mrs. Ackland, both of whom Old Scholars will have an opportunity of meeting.

It is hoped that as many Old Scholars as possible will attend and so make the gathering a truly representative one.

### CRICKET AND TENNIS

A cricket match has been arranged against the School to take place on the 14th July. Any Old Scholar who would like to play in the match should get in touch with the Secretary.

A mixed Tennis Match against the VI Form has also been arranged.

Old Scholars are indebted to Mr. Ackland for his kindness in allocating for their use on Monday evenings two of the School Tennis Courts. The facilities for tennis in Alcester are not good and so the opportunity to play at School has been a boon indeed to our keen tennis players.

**ANNUAL DANCE**

The annual Old Scholars Dance took place on the 31st March this year and despite petrol rationing was a distinct success.

The Committee made a firm rule that tickets should be sold only to Old Scholars, each of whom was allowed to bring a friend. The result proved that Old Scholars are quite self-supporting so far as a Dance is concerned.

Encouraged by the success of this Dance, it is hoped to hold another Dance in the Autumn of this year.

**HONORARY MEMBERSHIP OF THE GUILD**

The Committee unanimously decided that members of the Staff should be invited to become honorary members of the Guild. It was equally unanimous that Mrs. Rutter, who has done, and continues to do, so much for the Guild should be invited to become an honorary life member.

**DEBATE**

The Committee have intimated to Mr. Ackland that it is willing to co-operate in all outside activities of the School as far as is possible. As a beginning, it is hoped to arrange a debate early in the Autumn term in which the School and Old Scholars may take part.

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**BIRTHS**

On February 16th, to Mr. and Mrs. T. G. Cumberland (*nee* Molly Lane)—a daughter.

On March 11th, to Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Shrimpton (*nee* Gertrude Wilson)—a daughter.

On April 9th, to Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Harrison (*nee* Betty Slaughter)—a daughter.

On April 14th, to Mr. and Mrs. I. B. Licence (*nee* Margaret Lane)—a daughter.

On May 4th, to Mr. and Mrs. K. B. Bailey (*nee* Pat Boshier)—a son.

On May 13th, to Mr. and Mrs. J. Fisher (*nee* Betty Price)—a son.

On May 14th, to Mr. and Mrs. J. Robbins (*nee* Gertrude Valender)—a daughter.

**MARRIAGES**

On February 25th, at Alcester, Alan Austin Wright (scholar 1936—37) to Gertrude Ellen Molesworth.

On March 13th, at Tanworth-in-Arden, John Keightley to Jean Lloyd (scholar 1937—42)

On March 29th, at Alcester, Oliver Ridley to Elizabeth Baylis (scholar 1932—42)

On June 5th, at Bidford-on-Avon, Gerald Edwin Bladon to Beryl Marjorie Stallard (scholar 1940—43)

On June 5th, at Stratford-on-Avon, Frederick Derek Huckvale to Barbara Edith North (scholar 1937—42)

On June 19th, at Inkberrow, Arthur Edward Chuck to Sheila Margaret Jenkins (Scholar 1932—37)

### OLD SCHOLARS' NEWS

Janet Wells has been appointed Headmistress of the County Grammar School for Girls, Barrow-in-Furness.

Myra Parry (*nee* Jones) passed the Higher Local pianoforte examination of Trinity College in December last.

In the open competitive examination for entrance to the Civil Service (Inland Revenue), Winifred Ganderton was placed 764th out of 5,000 candidates.

J. D. Moizer has obtained his commission as Second Lieutenant in the R.E.

H. G. Orme is father of a year old daughter. He is engaged in social and welfare work of the Mental Health department of the Nottingham Corporation.

June Walker has been selected as Alcester Carnival Queen for 1948.

J. Sanders and R. Spooner are now in the R.A.F.; W. McCarthy is in the R.A.; and E. J. Cassell is in the Merchant Navy.

Margaret McKennan (*nee* Nall) is living in Southern Rhodesia.

R. Hunt, writing from Sumatra, is now on a ship trading between Hong Kong, Singapore and the Dutch East Indies.

### GENTLEMEN—TO YOUR DUTIES

If you see a soldier wearing a white disc or "flash" behind his regimental cap badge, white tape bands across his shoulder-straps, a smartly-creased battle-dress, highly polished boots, a beret planted absolutely straight on an apparently hairless head—you will know at once that he is on his way to becoming an officer. He has passed "Wozby" i.e. a War Office Selection Board.

War Office Selection Boards are usually placed in country houses, and the testing period takes two or three days. There are the inevitable intelligence tests, but what the board is chiefly concerned about is to discover if you, as a possible cadet, have any powers of leadership. To this end, you are put in charge of jobs and also, what is more difficult, your capacity to receive and carry out orders is tested. There are discussions and interviews. In these, it is advisable to be strictly honest—the officers of the Board are old "hands" and soon know if anyone is, as the Army term it, "shooting a line." Few pass the Board who indulge in this luxury. The day's work at the W.O.S.B. begins at 9 a.m. and ends at four in the afternoon.

One needs courage to face a W.O.S.B. but there is not the slightest need to worry about it. In any event, whether you pass the Board or not the fact that you have attended is to your credit so far as your Army record is concerned.

After successfully passing the Board, the next posting is to Basic O.C.T.U.—Officer Cadet Training Unit—at Mons Barracks, Aldershot, for an eight weeks' course. The Infantry have a special establishment of their own, at Chester.

As an Officer-Cadet, you will do infantry training for six weeks, because it is the duty of all Corps to help the Infantry as and when required. Moreover, an efficient Corps Officer must appreciate the job and requirements of the infantry man. Another consideration, as was pointed out in the previous article on Primary Training, is that all branches of the Service may be called upon to act as infantry in an emergency.

The Basic O.C.T.U. Course is not, as the title would appear to suggest, at all fixed. It has changed recently and is still changing to meet present short-service requirements. The training usually includes what is known as "Battle Camp." This entails living in a camp on the edge of Dartmoor for ten days, with "schemes" and mock battles every day with route-marches of anything up to sixteen miles included for good measure. Everything goes on whatever the weather conditions. It is possible to be there in mid-January when the weather on the moor varies between bad and incredible!

More drill is learned than one would consider possible and the standard required is probably the highest in the Army. Class work consists of lectures on Weapon-Training, Map-Reading, Tactics, Military Law, Administration (i.e. Forms, and how to use them!) and Methods of Instruction. It is a very concentrated Course and sheer hard work.

No account of Mons Barracks would, however, be complete without reference to Barrack Rooms. Here is what must be the greatest area in Britain without a speck of dust on it! Cleanliness, tidiness and polishing are carried to absurd extremes merely to prove what can be done in that line. Yes, the majority of cadets are glad to see the end of the Basic O.C.T.U. Course.

What will happen afterwards depends on the Corps one has chosen and the system at the time. Efforts are being made to concentrate all O.C.T.U.'s at Mons Barracks, which would mean that Technical Training will be done there too. Of the Corps, it is believed that the R.A.C. and R.A. are already there and the Royal Signals are moving in soon.

Each Corps O.C.T.U. gives specialised training according to the Arm of the Service. In these, a very large part of the Administration of the Unit is done by Senior Cadets who are given such ranks as Squadron-Leader, Corporal and so on. They have the power usually associated with that rank.

As the date of commissioning approaches, a cadet class is apt to become "Pip happy." This phenomenon takes many forms. So many cadets during the training fail to reach standard and are R.T.U. (returned to unit), that the successful ones indulge in various pranks to relieve the strain e.g. a very surprised camp awakes one morning to find dummy members of the drill staff hanging

from telegraph poles. Such nocturnal activities are, however, taken in good part by the staff.

And after all the hard work, follows the entertainment.

First, the "Pass Off" Dance—this is a hilarious affair organised with that mad irresponsibility attributable only to cadets.

Next, the "Pass Off" Parade. This takes place on the Saturday morning under the command of the Senior Cadet. It is a memorable occasion at which a high-ranking officer takes the salute; the Regimental Band plays whilst parents and friends look proudly on!

Immediately after the Parade, there is a lightning change into new officers uniforms for the service in the Camp Chapel. Finally, the cakes and congratulations in the Cadet Club **plus** a week's commissioning leave.

**2/Lt. J.D.M., R.E.**

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### TEST MATCH

The field was not a cricketer's dream. The pitch, wherever it was, had obviously not been smoothed by a roller. In one corner some muddy ducks were sporting themselves on a stagnant pond. The other side was bordered by a wood into which cricket balls were drawn as by a magnet.

Soon after lunch the home team strolled onto the field. They were local boys, clad in an assortment of clothes from soiled whites and moth-eaten sweaters to football kit. One figure however was noticeable. He was clad in spotless flannels with a razor crease down each leg, and sported a cap which had formerly belonged to a county player. Captain was stamped all over him. He walked slowly about the field, obviously looking for a suitable pitch. Stopping at last, he ordered the length to be measured out. This operation was carried through in uneven strides, and the wickets were hammered into place by a dilapidated bat. All was set for the match, and it only remained for the visiting team to arrive.

Percy Fisher, the Secretary of the newly formed village junior cricket club, had taken great trouble to arrange this fixture. He had cycled two miles to the next villiage to muster up enough opposition amongst the village youth, and had received two punctures as a reward. These he did not grudge, as he returned confident that there would be no opposition to speak of.

It was obvious that the captain was not much liked by his colleagues. He attended the county school, and had queer notions of cricket. To the village boys all that was necessary was a batsman, a bowler and a wicket keeper. The rest of the field arranged themselves as they wished. The main object was to hit the ball as hard and as far as possible. When the captain insisted that there should be slips, gullies, fine and short legs and silly mid-ons, the team began to grumble. This was not all. The only pair of batting gloves belonged to the captain, likewise the pads, and he did not see why his new kit should be spoilt by anyone. He guarded his bat jealously, and refused to have it used as a chopper.



The afternoon wore on. Percy Fisher blew the time with a dandelion, and as it registered twelve o'clock he was bundled off on his cycle to find the team. He returned an hour later with the doleful news that the so-called "team" were splashing around in the river, apparently having forgotten that they were required at a match.

At this the captain lost his temper. Supposing they had been playing for England, he stormed, would they have still gone bathing? He ripped off his fine batting gloves, threw them down with his bat, and stalked off the field ordering the rest to follow and bring his kit. However, the sun was shining, and it was such a pity to waste an afternoon. After momentary hesitation, the side split up into two teams, and using the much-coveted bat, played the game as they preferred it—every man to his own liking.

SONIA SHORE (VI)

### THE IDIOSYNCRASIES OF GENIUS

When applying the term "genius" to great men of art and music, one does not seem to penetrate further than the idea of a life surrounded by oils, canvas, manuscript and musical instruments. One does not realise that these men had lives just as personal as one's own. Yet it can be shown, from the diaries of their friends, that even if one or two were slightly mentally deranged, many had a great sense of humour, at least.

Beethoven is a good example of this; he maintained his love of a practical joke to the end; for when, in later life, a lady asked him for a lock of his hair, he was persuaded by two of his friends to send her a lock of a goat's beard, which nearly resembled Beethoven's coarse grey hair. The lady, who was the wife of a noted composer and piano-player of Vienna, plumed herself on her "treasure" until she was told by one of Beethoven's friends of the deception. However, although his roughness and uncouthness were shown to strangers more than once, he immediately apologised to the lady and promised not to have anything to do with the friends who persuaded him to play this joke on her.

Beethoven also had several unusual habits. His method of composing was particularly amusing. He was accustomed to write from daybreak till two or three in the afternoon which time was interspersed with numerous brisk walks to gain inspiration, whether it was snowing, hailing or raining. If he did not go out, he was inspired by water. "For," says Seyfried, "he would abstractedly pour several jugs full of water over his hands into the wash basin, all the while humming and roaring, for sing he could not." Then he would walk up and down the room, after dabbling till he was wet through, with eyes "frightfully distended," and seat himself at the table and write, after which he would dabble and roar again. In his conducting, too, he was unusual, for in soft passages, he would contract his person, making himself smaller and smaller, until, when a very soft passage occurred, he would shrink nearly under the conductor's desk. Then, on a crescendo passage, he would gradually expand himself, and rise up, until, when all the instruments of the

orchestra were playing, he would appear gigantic, floating about on tip-toe, and waving his arms about in a wild, undulating motion.

Beethoven's deafness was a great hindrance to him, and caused him to have a short temper. His diary reads thus:- "15th February, the kitchen-maid came: 8th March, the kitchen-maid gave a fortnight's notice: Twenty-second March, given warning to the housekeeper: First of July, the kitchen-maid arrived: Twenty-eighth of July, the kitchen-maid ran away at night . . . The cook's off again; I shied half-a-dozen books at her head." In another episode with his cook, he summoned her to his room to answer for the crime of sending him bad eggs for his bread soup, which he prepared with his own hands. When she hovered on his threshold, she was received with a battery of the suspected eggs, flung with much precision and effect. Again Beethoven is related in an incident with a waiter at the "Swan" to have flung a dish full of stewed beef and gravy at the waiter, who was standing with his hands full. He and Beethoven swore at each other, while the general company roared with laughter.

Moscheles, a friend of Beethoven, writes that when he went to his house, Beethoven, he found, was still in bed. But he soon jumped out, and went over to the window to examine some papers which Moscheles had brought. Immediately a mob of street boys collected underneath the window. Beethoven roared out "Now what do those confounded boys want?" Moscheles laughed, and pointed to his figure. Beethoven replied "Yes, Yes, you are quite right," and hastily donned a dressing gown.

Moscheles also relates (to turn to another composer) that Mendelsohn, himself and a friend, were travelling on the Dover mail coach. When they got inside, they found a fourth traveller asleep. "What shall we do with him when he wakes up?" was the question. "Kill him, that's the only way, answered another; but at that moment, the sleeper stirred, and Moscheles endeavoured to turn away his attention by remarking, in English, "and after that she said she never would have that man for her husband," a sentence which remained a proverb between the three for all time.

M. R. PERRYMAN (Upp. Vb.)

### QUEER STREET

Winding paths, and crooked lanes,  
Broken glass and window-panes,  
Here and there a chimney-pot,  
Children shouting. Quite a lot  
Of crooked lamp-posts, banging doors,  
Crooked walls, uneven floors.  
Measly dogs and skinny cats,  
And scores and scores of mice and rats;  
Bits of rubbish thrown around,  
Old tins lying on the ground.  
Waste paper scattered everywhere;  
An empty bottle here and there.  
That's why you have to stand and stare  
In Queer Street.

EILEEN LAWRENCE (Lower Vb.)

### SOLILOQUY

There was nothing extraordinary about the room. Such a room you might find in any London theatrical boarding-house. The walls were covered, barely, by an old willow-pattern wall-paper which had seen better days. The ceiling which had once also been papered had been whitewashed over and in one corner over the washstand a section of the now dirty white paper flapped a little idly in the draught created by the open window. Through this window drifted the well-known characteristic sounds of prewar London. To one end of the room stood a bed; it too was quite an ordinary bed with a brass knob at the end of each of its four posts. On the bed sat a man.

The man, however, was by no means ordinary. For a start his name was Collenso Bassington Faucet. Secondly he was an actor and thirdly, a fact which always seems to follow naturally, he was an actor out of work. All day he had tramped the hot and grimy streets of London. He had toured all the theatres and theatrical agencies he knew and in none of them had he found suitable employment. Now once more in his familiar bed-sitting room he relaxed upon the bed . . . . It was time he had a meal, he had not had one for twenty-four hours . . . . But he had no money, rent for the last three weeks still had to be paid, and he needed a new pair of shoes. Thumping feebly in his breast, his heart beat like a hundredweight of lead. Spots danced before his eyes, his head reeled and through the twisting tortuous passage of his mind one of Hamlet's soliloquies wandered.

"To be, or not to be: that is the question:  
. . . . To die, to sleep;  
To sleep; perchance to dream: ay, there's the rub;  
For in that sleep of death what dreams may come,  
When we have shuffled off this mortal coil,  
Must give us pause . . . ."

Suddenly, glancing up, he perceived that three oddly attired figures had entered the room. The first apparition spoke slowly, pensively. "I am Hamlet, Prince of Denmark. To you I represent the climax of your career. I and my companions have come to grant you a last wish, for never again will you declaim the words of the Bard." He stepped to one side and the second figure advanced, speaking boldly. "I am Curio, attendant on the Duke Orsino. To you I represent the beginning of your career. I was your first part." He also stood to one side and in his place stood a hazy figure, clouded, it seemed, in a shroud of mist. "I am not one person," it said, "I am the many who represent the middle period of your career," and slowly before the amazed eyes of the actor it changed shape and countenance again and again. Capulet, Orsino, Banquo, Edgar, Bassanio and Bardolph all came and vanished. Finally the apparition stood back and the foreground was resumed by the figure of Hamlet.

"As I have previously told you" the figure spoke slowly and with melancholy, "we have come to grant you your last wish. Choose, choose wisely for on your choice depends your life immortal." Collenso Faucet had no doubt in his mind "I choose" he said, "I choose once more to stand before the curtain of the old Globe Theatre and once more take my ovation from the first-night audience" Suddenly there was a flash which momentarily blinded him. Then he saw that his wish had been granted. He stood dressed in the long flowing white robes of Lear before the curtain bowing again and again to the frenzied audience. As abruptly as it had come, the scene faded into oblivion.

In the lonely bed-sitting room a blue-bottle buzzed its way disconsolately around the room. Collenso Bassington Faucet, however, took no notice of it; he had shuffled off his mortal coil and had travelled to the undiscovered country. He was dead.

J. HOLIFIELD (VI)

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### INTERLUDE

We find ourselves in a long, semi-dark passage. The silence is suddenly shattered by the strident tones of a bell. A minute later a door opens, and a figure issues forth. Now other doors open and more shapes emerge, followed by other smaller figures. All these proceedings make a certain amount of noise.

From one room, however, only one figure makes its exit, but from the doorway comes an increasing rumbling sound. It swells and dies again, then rises to a crescendo; a dull roar, punctuated by an occasional crash or shriek. A few minutes pass by, then a forbidding shape enters the room. The door closes, and silence reigns once more.

We look more closely at this door, and at once the mystery is solved. On the card is printed, in large letters,—U IVA

P. M. GOWERS (Upp. IVa)

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### NOTES AND NEWS

The Summer term began on Tuesday, April 13th, and ends on Thursday, July 22nd.

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The Head Boy this term is Hill i.

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Jones i, Steveni and Dalrymple have been appointed prefects.

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Mrs. M. L. Evans and Mr. R. Walton left the Staff at the end of last term.

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This term we extend a hearty welcome to Miss A. L. Webley, our newly-appointed Senior Mistress and to Mr. J. W. Bell, who joined the Staff in May to teach physics and mathematics.

A medical inspection for boys and girls took place early in March.

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On Monday, April 26th a half holiday was taken in celebration of the Silver Wedding of Their Majesties the King and Queen.

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During the Easter holidays the decorators completed the painting of a number of classrooms in the school.

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On Wednesday, May 5th, a party from the Sixth and the Upper Fifth visited the theatre at Stratford-on-Avon to attend a performance of "Hamlet."

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Hockey colours have been presented to J. Preston (for the second time), M. Rowland, S. Leech and D. Bailey.

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Parties of boys and girls have each week visited the baths at Redditch with Mr. Petherbridge and Miss Hewitt for instruction and practice in swimming.

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Whit Monday and Tuesday, May 17th and 18th were holidays.

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Sports Day was Thursday, June 3rd.

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The half term holiday was Friday, June 4th and Monday, June 7th.

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We wish to thank Myra Parry, Daisy Watkins, Rachel Kinnersley, Ruby Lawrence and Diana Lane for gifts of books to the Fiction Library.

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Fixture Cards, containing details of the school Cricket, Tennis and Rounders matches have been printed and put on sale this term.

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In the new time-table which came into operation at the beginning of the term, complete afternoons for games have been allocated to each form.

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Through the generosity of two donors the school has received three handsome cups to be awarded for success in the Sports. Mr. G. H. Hopkins has presented a silver challenge cup to be held by the girl gaining the highest number of points in senior Sports events. Mr. W. G. Ison has presented a silver challenge cup for the girl securing the highest number of points in under-15 events; and, in addition, a silver cup for the winning side in the boy's Senior Cross Country race. We wish to take this opportunity of expressing our very sincere thanks to Mr. Hopkins and Mr. Ison for their kind gifts. It is hoped that, at an early date, we shall be able to include photographs of these cups in the RECORD.

During the year most of the Senior and Middle School have acquired "pen-friends" in various parts of France and the British zone of Germany. Now it is hoped that we shall be linked with a German school under the Ministry of Education scheme.

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The French oral examinations were conducted on May 10th by Miss N. R. Barker; the German orals on June 29th by Mr. A. Thorburn.

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**The School Badge.** Readers will be interested in the following extract from a letter written by Mr. Ernest Wells, first headmaster of the present Alcester Grammar School to Mr. E. W. Jephcott, dated 10th February, 1948.

"Dr. Tom Smith and I spent a pleasant evening examining his collection of Roman coins, all of which had been found in the near neighbourhood. Naturally many of them were much damaged by exposure, but eventually we found one showing the figure of the Roman soldier with his standard and the Greek letters Chi Rho upon it. This exactly suited my idea of an emblem of historical interest having a reasonably close connection with the spot where the school now stands. The legend "Christus nobiscum state" has no connection with the coin. It was hunted up by Miss E. Evans and formed the motto of a mediaeval ruler of the German principality of Brandenburg—Bayreuth. As the letters Chi Rho upon the standard are a Christian symbol, I felt that the two combined—soldier and motto—made as good a badge for the school as I was likely to find. Hence its adoption. I had a careful drawing made from the coin, slightly enlarged to a size suitable for a badge."

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### **SPORTS DAY 1948**

The day of rosettes and fierce arguments over the merits of sides has once more come and gone. The months of practice culminated in one afternoon of condensed energy and resulted in another name being added to the sports shield and in this instance another two names being added to the Victor Ludorum cup.

This year for the first time in the history of the school, the girls were allowed to compete in the sports events. Accordingly much more had to be done before the actual day in the way of preparation and elimination. The burden of these extra arrangements fell the most heavily on the shoulders of Mr. Thornton to whom congratulations and thanks are due for the smooth and apparently easy manner in which he organised the sports and Miss Hewitt and Miss Johnson who must be congratulated for their praiseworthy efforts in coaching and preparing the girls for their events. On two afternoons preceding Sports day the heats, this year totalling over sixty-five in number, were run off. By this means several whole events, including the Girls' Hurdles race and the Boys' Slow Bicycle race were decided, while many competitors

were eliminated from events which had hitherto been open to all on Sports Day. The field itself, although not wholly recovered from the ardours of winter, was pleasantly green and had been clearly marked and prepared by the Science Sixth, who again devoted much of their valuable time to it. Thus when the first visitor arrived, he beheld a neatly arranged field and the competitors likewise prepared to join battle.

"What! girls running on Sports Day!" expostulates the scornful male. Actually it is not such a rare occurrence and while it is obvious that they cannot compete actually with the boys, they surely have a right to appear on the programme, even if their events are somewhat drastically curtailed. Those who did run showed that there is no lack of talent either in the senior part of the school or amongst the juniors and it is to be hoped that there will be more events open to them next year, when the standard throughout the school should be much higher. The girls' relay race was divided into two events, senior and intermediate, and, as there were only four runners in each team, it took far less time than the boys' relay race, which is such a well known closing feature of the afternoon.

The boys' sports, not wholly eclipsed by those of the girls, were run with the same vigour and enthusiasm as ever. The Brownies were intent upon avenging their previous year's defeat at the hands of the Jackals, and those worthies were equally determined to thwart that noble ideal. The Tomtits by no means dismayed at such intense rivalry decided that neither of those two rivals should be the victor—that was a title reserved solely for the Tomtits. Thus dawned the morning of June 3rd—Sports Day 1948. The Brownies had already established a slight lead as a result of the events which had been previously decided. That lead was carefully maintained and added to in spite of an unexpected victory by the Jackals in the Tug o' War. The Brownies however carried off first, second, third and fourth places in the Boys' Senior Hurdles: the only four competitors who had survived the eliminating heats being Brownies. The afternoon's events were brought as usual to the close by the Relay Race, in which the Brownies, having obtained the lead in the first lap, held it for the rest of the race and ran out easy winners to the acclamations of all.

Although the absence of craft-work caused some consternation amongst both past and present scholars, it is not to be abolished and we hope to hold an exhibition at some later date in the near future. The catering, another new improvement to Sports Day arrangements, under the supervision of Miss Webley was voted by all and sundry to be a splendid success. The flowers brought by many pupils and arranged attractively in the canteen, the hall and Upper IVa were greatly admired. Two shifts of girls served tea to the visitors very efficiently.

Had Sports Day been a week earlier, travelling difficulties would have made it impossible for many people to attend. Fortunately the welcome return of the "Basic" once more enabled people to

use their cars. The North field was as usual converted into a car park to accommodate an assortment of models ranging from sleek and gleaming limousines to weary looking "1930's" and an occasional jeep!

The afternoon's proceedings were brought to their customary close by the final assembly and presentations. The Trophies were again presented by the Dowager Lady Throckmorton to whom the school owes a deep debt of gratitude for her active and never-ceasing interest in school activities. In his address, the Chairman, Mr. Mason, welcomed to their first Sports Day Mr. and Mrs. Ackland and Miss Webley, a welcome that is heartily echoed by the rest of the school. Mr. Mason also made reference to the retirement of Miss Evans and to the tragic and sudden death of Mr. C. T. L. Caton. In memory of our late headmaster the school stood in silence for a few moments. The trophies were then presented and it was announced that through the generosity of Mr. G. H. Hopkins, to whom we are very grateful, the girls will be presented with a cup, corresponding to the Victor Ludorum for which they will compete on future Sports Days. The afternoon's events finally ended with the singing of the school song. Everybody, spectators and participants alike, returned home having, we trust, thoroughly enjoyed their afternoon's entertainment.

The results were as follows:—

(B. Brownies J. Jackals T. Tomtits).

#### OVER 15

##### Boys

100 yards—I. Baylis (B); 2. Tarver (J); 3. Adkins (B); 4. Williams (J), (Time 11.6 secs.)

220 yards—I. Baylis (B); 2. Tarver (J); 3. Adkins (B); 4. Brookes (T), (Time 26.7 secs.)

Half Mile—I. McCarthy ii (J); 2. Adkins (B); 3. Blundell i (T); 4. Tarver (J), (Time, 2 mins. 34.4 secs.)

440 yards—I. Tarver (J); 2. Williams (J); 3. Adkins (B); 4. Brookes (T), (Time, 1 min. 5.7 secs.)

Obstacle—I. Mills (J); 2. Pace (J); 3. Hadwen (T); 4. Williams (J).

Slow Bicycle—I. Williams (J); 2. Jones i (B); 3. Kinnersley (B); 4. Stanley (T).

Hurdles—I. Adkins (B); 2. Jones i (B); 3. Baylis (B); 4. Evans (B), (Time, 14.6 secs.)

High Jump—I. Adkins (B); 2. Jones i (B); 3. Pace (B) and Blundell i (T); (Height, 4ft. 7½ ins.)

Cross Country—I. McCarthy i (B); 2. Budden (T); 3. Tarver (J); 4. McCarthy ii (J), (Time 24 mins. 58 secs.)

The Mile—I. Budden (T); 2. Hill i (T); 3. Tarver (J); 4. McCarthy ii (J), (Time, 5 mins. 21 secs.)

Long Jump—I. Adkins (B); 2. Baylis (B); 3. Tarver (J); 4. Brookes (T), (Distance, 17 ft. 1½ ins.)

Throwing the Cricket Ball—I. Baylis (B); 2. McCarthy ii (J); 3. Evans (B); Hill i (T), (Distance, 73 yds.)

##### Girls

100 yards—I. S. Leech (B); 2. D. Bailey (T); 3. J. Preston (J); 4. R. Varney (B), (Time, 13.3 secs.)

220 yards—I. S. Leech (B); 2. J. Preston (B); 3. R. Varney (B); 4. D. Bailey (T) (Time, 32 secs.)

Hurdles—I. S. Leech (B); 2. D. Bailey (T); 3. S. Shore (B); 4. D. Spencer (B), (Time, 16.4 secs.)



*High Jump*—1. *D. Bailey* (T); 2. *J. Preston* (J); 3. *S. Leech* (B); 4. *J. Birch* (J).  
(Height, 4 ft. 6½ ins.)

*Throwing the Rounders Ball*—1. *S. Leech* (B); 2. *R. Kinnersley* (B); 3. *D. Bailey* (T). (Distance, 54 yds.)

**13—15****Boys**

100 yards—1. *Langston* (B); 2. *Hitchings* (T); 3. *Smalley* (T); 4. *Alder* (B).  
(Time, 12.1 secs.)

220 yards—1. *Langston* (B); 2. *Hitchings* (T); 3. *Smalley* (T); 4. *Turner* (J).  
(Time, 29.6 secs.)

*Half Mile*—1. *Paddock* (B); 2. *Pinfield i* (B); 3. *Gray* (T); 4. *Sharpe i* (T).  
(Time, 2 mins. 37.3 secs.)

*Slow Bicycle*—1. *Perrymann* (T); 2. *Hunt ii* (J); 3. *Yeomans* (J); 4. *Finnemore* (B).

*Obstacle*—1. *Burden i* (J); 2. *Savage iii* (J); 3. *Payne ii* (J); 4. *Bryan* (T).

*Hurdles*—1. *Hitchings* (T); 2. *Langston* (B); 3. *Smalley* (T); 4. *Yeomans* (J).  
(Time, 15.2 secs.)

*High Jump*—1. *Yeomans* (J); 2. *Langston* (B); 3. *Drew* (J); 4. *Pearce* (T).  
(Height, 4ft. 7 ins.)

*Long Jump*—1. *Hitchings* (T); 2. *Payne ii* (J); 3. *Fielding* (T); 4. *Drew* (J).  
(Distance, 14 ft. 8 ins.)

*Cross Country*—1. *Paddock* (B); 2. *Gray* (T); 3. *Burden i* (J); 4. *Pinfield i* (B).  
(Time, 15½ mins.)

*Throwing the Cricket Ball*—1. *Yeomans* (J); 2. *Turner* (J); 3. *Payne i* (T);  
4. *Fielding* (T). (Distance, 58½ yds.)

**Girls**

100 yards—1. *J. Forbes* (T); 2. *S. Dyke* (T); 3. *J. Hopkins* (B); 4. *J. Dayer-Smith* (T). (Time, 12.5 secs.)

160 yards—1. *J. Forbes* (T); 2. *S. Dyke* (T); 3. *A. Wilson* (T); 4. *A. Miles* (B).  
(Time, 22.5 secs.)

*Obstacle*—1. *J. Dayer-Smith* (T); 2. *J. Easton* (B); 3. *S. Spencer* (J); 4. *J. Langford* (J).

*High Jump*—1. *A. Miles* (B); 2. *J. Forbes* (T); 3. *A. Wilson* (T); 4. *S. Tipping* (J). (Height, 4ft. 4½ ins.)

*Throwing the Rounders Ball*—1. *J. Forbes* (T); 2. *M. Cund* (T); 3. *B. Jaques* (J).  
(Distance, 48 yds.)

**UNDER 13****Boys**

100 yards—1. *Malin ii* (J); 2. *Burden ii* (J); 3. *Wesson* (B); 4. *Trevor* (B).  
(Time, 13.6 secs.)

*Obstacle*—1. *Burden ii* (J); 2. *Keats* (T); 3. *Weaver* (B); 4. *Hemming* (T).

*Egg and Spoon*—1. *Paxton* (T); 2. *Finnemore* (B); 3. *Pinfield ii* (B); 4. *Malin ii* (J).

*Sack*—1. *Blake* (J); 2. *Hemming* (T); 3. *Davies i* (T); 4. *Weaver* (B).

*Three-Legged*—1. *Burden ii and Feast* (J); 2. *Sutor and Horne* (J); 3. *Hemming*

*and Lane ii* (T); 4. *Clark and Davies i* (T).

**Girls**

100 yards—1. *A. Easton* (B); 2. *J. Smith* (J); 3. *B. Phillips* (J); 4. *S. Griffin* (B).  
(Time, 14.2 secs.)

*Skipping*—1. *A. Easton* (B); 2. *B. Druller* (J); 3. *P. Tipping* (B); 4. *E. Craddock* (B).

*Obstacle*—1. *S. Jones* (T); 2. *B. Druller* (J); 3. *C. Wigington* (J); 4. *M. Woodfield* (J).

**OTHER EVENTS**

*Tug of War (Boys)*—1. *Jackals*; 2. *Brownies*.

*Relay (Boys: teams of 24)*—1. *Brownies*; 2. *Jackals*; 3. *Tomtits*.

*Relay (Girls 13-15)*—1. *Tomtits*; 3. *Brownies*; 2. *Jackals*.

*Relay (Girls over 15)*—1. *Brownies*; 2. *Jackals*; 3. *Tomtits*.

The following presentations were made:—

*Victor Ludorum Cup*—Adkins (B) and Tarver (J) tied with 28 points.

*Silver Medals*—Adkins, Tarver, Baylis, Budden, McCarthy i, Paddock, Langston, Hitchings, S. Leech, D. Bailey, J. Forbes.

*Bronze Medals*—McCarthy ii, Jones i, Williams, Burden i, Yeomans, Gray, J. Preston, A. Easton, S. Dyke.

*Sports Shield*—Brownies (271 points).

*Jackals* scored 202 points and *Tomtits* 144 points.

J.H.

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## CHILDHOOD RECOLLECTIONS

Have you ever looked back on your childhood, and wished that you were a child once more? I have. As I stand now, on the edge of a new and rather frightening world, inexperienced and very much alone, I wish with all my heart that I was nine or ten years old again. Mine was a very happy childhood. I had no major upheavals or mishaps of any kind, that is why perhaps I feel that now all the major crises of life have suddenly tumbled down like a ton of bricks on to my innocent and undeserving head.

My most happy memories, strangely enough, are all connected with the peculiar games I used to play. Since my sister and I both possessed very vivid imaginations, our games were always great adventures. She used to invent them as we went along, I, at that time her adoring slave, followed. Sometimes we were Indians, but most times we were gallant explorers journeying through the jungle which was inhabited by many weird animals like human beings minus their heads, and with their mouths in their chests. These creatures were coloured bright blues and reds with ghastly yellow and green spots. Often I really thought I saw them lurking behind trees ready to grab me in their mighty arms. My sister would suddenly cry "There's one!" "Where?" I would shriek, and turning round I would run for my life. Admittedly I was really scared when she suddenly disappeared and leapt out behind me emitting wild cries, such as were never heard on earth before.

This was only one of our games, but we had many more like it. Looking back now I think that we were very unnatural girls. Although fond of our dolls, we much preferred to run wild in the fields, yelling and whooping to our heart's content. We were not elegantly sedate like some little girls of our acquaintance, but were frequently very muddy with our frocks and knickers torn to shreds. We were not model little girls, but we were happy, and looking back I am grateful for the happy memories that mean so much.

DOROTHY ROSE (VI)

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## A LOCAL CHARACTER

The village of Summersford was typically Warwickshire, at least so the tourists always said; but to Frank Clavertone Summersford was "home" ("and a mighty good one too"). "Uncle Frank," as he was known locally, was landlord and owner of the "Malt

Shovel"—the local Inn. The "Malt Shovel" was also typically Warwickshire—it was one of those Inns which have been in existence for generations.

The first things which impressed the stranger on approaching the building were its architectural antiquity and the abundance of cats prowling about the place—"Uncle Frank" said the cats were to keep the mice away, but the mice, if they existed at all, were far outnumbered by the cats.

The Inn proudly bore a sign displaying a malt shovel, and a notice to the effect that the premises were licensed to sell wines, spirits (although none of the latter were ever seen), and tobacco. The onlooker was also further informed that the "Malt Shovel" was a "free house." At the side of the front door of the Inn stood a dilapidated bench where, except when the weather was bad, sat the landlord.

"Uncle Frank" weighed at least sixteen stone; from side view he reminded one rather of a fifty-gallon beer-barrel, his chest and stomach appearing to run into one artistic curve. He was usually dressed in a white beerstained apron, under which was a coloured collarless shirt, which still retained the studs, and a capacious pair of trousers. A perpetual grin played on his face,—a grin which often times developed into a deep chuckle.

"Uncle Frank" loved the "Malt Shovel" with the affection of a child—an American tourist had once offered him £30,000 for it, but Frank afterwards remarked that he wasn't selling the old "Malt Shovel," that had been his great-great-great grandfather's—to a blinkin' foreigner. Every morning, at opening time, he would take a seat on the bench outside his establishment and acknowledge every passer-by with a nod of the head or a polite "good-day"—he was unfriendly to no-one.

"Uncle Frank" was a regular church goer and would attend at least twice every Sunday, without missing. He would arrive dressed in a black pin-stripe suit, black shoes, and a bowler-hat, (or "hard-hat" as he termed it). As he walked down the aisle, everyone would greet him with a silent salutation; and during the hymns his deep voice could be heard above those of both choir and congregation.

The landlord of the "Malt Shovel" also showed his talent when playing for Summersford Cricket Club. His bowling was respected not a little by his own team but more especially by the opposition. "Uncle Frank" had a peculiar characteristic expression of his own, when bowling: before taking his run, he would always lick his thumb and examine the stitching and trade-mark on the ball. And "woe betide" the scorer if he failed to get "Uncle Frank's" bowling analysis correct.

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This perhaps is all to the good from the point of view of the fish swimming gaily in the water. Of course, that is what an angler means by a restful day.

Judging by the number and weight of fish brought home by the average sportsman, very little difference is made to the food situation. It is much easier to call at a fishmonger's and buy a good meal ready caught and waiting on a marble slab.

A. HADWEN (Upp. Vb)

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### A FOLK TALE

Once upon a time there was a young man who set out on a journey. All he had was a diamond, an axe and a bowl. Now all these things had magic powers; the diamond gave him the power to fly anywhere, the axe if slapped on the wooden handle would cut and kindle a fire, but if slapped on the steel would cut off a head. If he wished to eat, food appeared in the bowl.

He had already met many of the terrors of the world and now he was nearing the marshes where there was an invisible enemy. He started to walk over the marshes when a knife struck at him from some direction he knew not. He heard a laugh from behind him and there stood the ugliest little man he had ever seen.

In his hand was a cap. He put it on and, lo and behold! he was invisible and then he took off his cap, "That is a fine cap," said the young man, "I will give you my diamond for it." "What can your diamond do?" sneered the old man. "You just say where you want to go and it takes you there" said the young man. They agreed on the bargain and exchanged the cap and the diamond. Then the young man said, "Heads off" and the axe sliced through the old man's neck as a knife slices through butter. The young man picked up the diamond and went on his way with a diamond, an axe, a bowl and an invisible cap.

GWEN SMITH (Low. IVb)

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### THE WIND

The wind is a strange thing  
When it tries so hard to sing,  
It howls and moans with a roaring sound,  
As it twirls dead leaves down to the ground.

The tree-tops wildly sway  
As it blows the twigs away,  
The clouds go sailing through the skies,  
While all the birds make whining cries.

MARY WILLIAMS (Low. Va)

**THOUGHTS ON LEAVING SCHOOL**

On my first day of Alcester Grammar School life, I certainly did not think about leaving school. Indeed my recollections are that I did not think seriously about it all till some two years ago, when it gradually dawned on me that, within a year, I would be taking an examination which, according to my betters, was what I had been working for throughout my entire school life. I must say it came as quite a shock to me to realize that if I failed, (an idea that certainly did not come from the realms of the impossible,) I should be made unceremoniously to quit the school. In fact, it was quite a blow to think of my ever leaving school at all. In my tender mind I was quite prepared for the school to collapse hideously, the moment that I shook the dust from my feet. The realisation came to me that I did not want to leave. I had, I feared, got into the most hopeless rut from which there was only a straight one-way road out, via the school certificate.

Still no sane member of the Lower Fifth bothers herself for long about matters of that kind and once again my mind became settled. And so it has remained to this day, two years later, when my time of departure is drawing very near. I have become resigned to the idea now, though occasionally my mind gives a jerk and reminds me that this is the last time I shall do some particular thing. I experienced this shock on Sports Day and on the first day of the term, but people say you can get used to anything, and thousands have done it before me—what comfort!

I am afraid I was never made to be an ideal pupil, far from it. I never tried to be, but I know I shall be able to look back on my school life and say those oft repeated words, "They were the happiest days of my life." They have been and I have thoroughly enjoyed them.

MARY ROWLAND (VI)

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**FREEDOM**

The convict stared at darkened walls,  
O'er which the moon's pale silver sheen  
Flickering shone, from vasty halls  
Of space, where fiery comets seem  
To fly through fields of mystic light  
Trying in vain to break away  
From burning Sun's atomic might,  
That governs all beneath his sway.

He slowly raised his tired eyes  
To where the moon's pale majesty  
Faintly filled the starry skies,  
And gazed with new-found honesty  
At gleaming dark and formless space;  
Where lights of mystic twinkling stars  
Suffus'd into this clammy place  
Of crowding walls and steely bars.

Here he had been for twenty years  
Confin'd, for stealing paltry ewes,  
To keep his aged mother's tears  
From falling much o'er unpaid dues.  
And as he gaz'd out through the grill,  
He felt an urge to see once more  
The land where was his father's mill,  
And where he played and work'd of yore.

Oh! how he yearn'd to go back there,  
To watch the sunrise on the lea,  
And bathe the dewy grass so fair  
With rays of glorious deity  
And then thro' gaps of massing cloud  
To move in columns of marching light,  
Cross smiling land so rich endow'd  
By Nature's kind and bounteous might.

With strength acquir'd of captive years,  
He tears at bars, which start to yield  
So rotted from rain and wind and years,  
Till suddenly, backward falling, he reel'd;  
And then, with quick and frenzied haste,  
Began to squeeze thro' to worlds outside,  
And from that cell he covertly rac'd,  
To find a spot in which to hide.

Now at last with swinging tread  
Along he strides into the west,  
Thro' spacious town and country spread,  
He walks again with new found zest.  
Once more he goes, through homely cots,  
To where he can from hillside see  
The mill, where far 'mong woody knots  
It rests—at last from troubles free.

W. P. McCARTHY

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### SECRETS

There they sit, at the top of the field, two little girls with heads together. They must be talking secrets for they both keep glancing over their shoulders to see if anyone is coming.

Now and then they laugh and push one another playfully as they spot a joke. Another girl joins them and they all settle on the grass and talk, not in whispers as before but fairly loudly so that their friend can't find anything out of what they were talking about before. She gets up disappointed, because she wanted to share their secrets, and joins four other girls who are walking round, and goes off with them.

The remaining girls start talking quietly again, having been left to themselves. Then one of them shudders and screams as her companion seems to put something down her back and they pretend to have a fight but in the end they go back to their quiet talks.

At this moment the bell rings and both girls rush into school, all secrets forgotten.

I do wonder what they were talking about! Don't you?

BARBARA DRULLER (Upp. IVa)

**MIDNIGHT**

What is this dreadful noise I hear,  
That fills me with a trembling fear,  
And draws from me a frightened tear.  
It sounds like the monster of the deep!

In fear I lie and listen while  
It sounds in every noise and style.  
Ah! Now I know, and I can smile—  
It's father, snoring in his sleep.

DOREEN ETSSELL (Upp. IVa)

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**AN UNSUCCESSFUL MEAL**

She looked up at the clock with a sigh—eleven-thirty, already. Oh well, he would have to wait for his lunch, that was all. These exasperating males expected you to slave away all your life for them. A pity they didn't have to try housework once in a while. With another sigh she went to answer the knock at the back-door. She gazed with undisguised despair at the few sausages and tiny piece of meat, which looked like old horse—and smelt like it too.

The front-door bell rescued her from the butcher's incessant gossip about "that brazen little hussy down the street." It was of course the next door neighbour, trying again to borrow some sugar. When she had eventually been removed, the black and burning remains of the potatoes were taken off the stove. Placing the meat-pie in the oven, she resignedly started to prepare a second lot of potatoes.

By midday she had them ready.

Going to the oven to turn the pie, she found it stone-cold and not cooked in the slightest. Only then did she remember the card that had arrived that morning—"Your electricity supply will be cut off from eleven-forty-five till four." That meant no pie, no potatoes, no sweet, and a definite "row." And she had planned such a nice lunch, but now she supposed she would have to try and forget that lovely hat.

The door banged and, thirty minutes later, they sat down to a "meal" of cold water, stale bread and scraped "marge."

What a life! what a meal!

KATHLEEN ROBERTS (Upp. Va)

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**THE FARMYARD WEDDING**

I went to a farm one day with my father, and as I was waiting outside in the yard, looking around me, I saw two white geese walking very slowly side-by-side up the yard. Then two more walking almost together came up behind them followed by another two, all four brown ones. As they reached the top of the yard,



about a dozen ducks waddled out of a field gate which led straight into the yard. These came up behind the other six in no special order at all, but making a lot of noise. The next remarkable thing that happened was a hen which came running out of the hedge just by the two white geese and most surprised to see them started to talk to them.

In my own imagination this reminded me of a wedding, the white geese as bride and bride-groom, the brown ones as bridesmaids, the ducks as congregation and the black hen as the vicar.

ANN EASTON (IIIb)

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### AWAKENING

Every morning same old worry.  
Woken wildly in the scurry;  
Half awake and half asleep,  
At the clock we take a peep.  
It's only half past seven we see,  
Then mother brings our cups of tea.  
When mother leaves the room, Oh! cheers,  
We pull the clothes around our ears;  
We think of school and get the blues,  
Decide to have another snooze.  
The clothes are roughly snatched away,  
And we're dragged out to our dismay.  
If we can dodge our wash we do;  
We push our breakfast down us too,  
And then with coat and hat in hand  
At the bus stop we drowsily land.

JENNIFER BIRCH and MARGARET WATTON (Low. Va)

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### TREASURE

While Rob was digging in the garden he saw something shining in the sunlight. He picked it up and, to his surprise, found it was a half-crown. Knowing that he also had a half-crown in his pocket he was delighted to think he had now double that amount. After a while to his surprise he picked up another. Putting his hand into his pocket he found that it was empty and that it also had a hole in the bottom through which his half-crown had slipped each time.

G. A. TURNER (Low. IVa)

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### COLOUR

I like colour,  
The brown of the earth, the green of grass,  
The bright gay colours of ladies who pass,  
The blue of the sky, the black of night,  
The moon and the stars with their pale silv'ry light.  
The white of the foam, the yellow of sand,  
The gold of the sun that brightens the land.

DIANA LANE (Low. IVb)

**SPORTS DAY**

Sports Day comes but once a year,  
 Parents come to help us cheer.  
 Our houses we support with pride,  
 Running races—how we tried  
 The sack race, high jump, egg and spoon,  
 Slow cycle race—but came too soon.

Days like this cannot go wrong,  
 And the winners join the throng.  
 Yes! sports day ended with the song.

W. J. TREVOR (IIIa)

**NATIONAL SAVINGS**

The half yearly total for the School Group of the National Savings Movement was slightly better than that for the previous six months, being £105—18—0 for the period beginning Sept. 30th, 1947 and ending March 31st, 1948.

This gives a weekly average of £5—5—11 against the previous weekly average of £2—12—11. I regret to report, however, that this standard has not been maintained, for savings since March 31st show only a weekly average of £1—4—10!

This means that savings during Sept. 1948 will have to show a considerable increase if the present average is to be raised to its former level, and it should be noted that £5—5—11 saved each week represents approximately 4d. per pupil.

I still feel that we as a school should be capable of a more creditable effort. Remember that each one of you is entitled to contribute to this Group, and that you may bring savings for any member of your family. It is, after all, your support that makes the organisation of the Group worth the time and effort involved.

MISS YOUNG  
 (Hon. Sec.)

**DRAMATIC SOCIETY**

As the Dramatic Society has adjourned for the summer season, this report concerns only those plays which were performed after the last magazine had been sent to the publishers.

The last two play-readings of the season were two comedies—"The Old Bull" by Bernard Gilbert and "The Centurion's Billet at Swacking-Bulphen" by A. J. Talbot. The cast of both plays consisted of members of VI, Upper V and Lower V.

Many thanks are due to Miss Young for organizing the performances and also the representatives of the senior forms, on whose judgement the choice of play depends. In expressing our gratitude we must not ignore the "backroom" boys and girls whose efforts made the play-readings possible—M. Rowland for organising a poster service, Budden, McCarthy, Haines, Payne and members of Upper IV for arranging the furniture, S. Shore and Hill for their assistance in casting the plays, A. Rutter for organising the teas and D. Rose for organising the announcement of the *dramatis personae*.

We hope that next term the Dramatic Society will be renewed with vigour and enthusiasm, and that as many members of the school as possible will attend all performances.

D. A. ROSE

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### MUSIC SOCIETY

The activities of the Music Society have, unfortunately, been limited by the advent of the Summer Term. Although pressed for time, we managed to produce a concert, which was given to a large audience on Friday March 12th, at the end of the Spring term. I should like to take this opportunity of thanking the artistes who made that programme possible, for their co-operation and zeal.

A second meeting was held on Friday April 23rd, when again a very good performance was given to, and appreciated by, a somewhat depleted, but no less enthusiastic audience.

My thanks go to Miss Griffith for her interest and suggestions in running dinner-hour practices, and for the help she gave us by placing her stock of records and music at our disposal; also to Mr. Ackland for his ready support and encouragement in our new enterprise.

We hope by our endeavours to promote in the school a genuine interest in serious music, for which there is a large following.

A. J. DALRYMPLE, (*Hon. Sec.*)

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### RADIO SOCIETY

Meetings have been held regularly in the Physics Laboratory on Fridays.

An electric soldering iron has been purchased out of the club funds, which have been greatly helped by a five-shilling donation given by a person wishing to remain anonymous.

Four members are making crystal sets for their own use, and work has been started on the two-valve battery receiver, for short wave reception.

It is hoped in the near future to organise a visit to Droitwich transmitting station.

All radio enthusiasts are cordially welcomed.

D. SHAW (*Hon. Sec.*)

**THE SPORTS SHIELD**

The original Sports Shield was first competed for in 1913. When all the medallions on this shield were filled, a new shield was presented by Dr. and Mrs. Collier, and this was awarded for the first time in 1938.

The winners of these shields have been as follows:—

BROWNIES (14 times): 1913, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1925, 1938, 1939, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1948.

JACKALS (11 times): 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1923, 1924, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1937, 1947.

TOMTITS (11 times): 1918, 1919, 1926, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1940.

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**CRICKET 1948**

*Captain:* ADKINS

*Secretary:* HOLIFIELD

*Vice-Captain:* HILL i

*Committee Member:* EVANS

As both matches against Chipping Campden had to be cancelled, the school cricket XI does not appear to have been as successful as was hoped. Net practice was begun as early in the term as was possible and an XI was soon formed. Owing to lack of balance in the team, our opening matches were uniformly unsuccessful. Against both Evesham and Stratford our bowlers were able to dismiss our opponents for comparatively low scores. The advantage thus gained was soon found to be of no avail when the batsmen failed to register an appreciable score. Several changes have been made in the team, and following an unlucky defeat at Redditch the eleven gained a resounding victory at home over Stratford. In this match the batsmen followed the example set them by their captain and amassed a substantial score. So active and keen was the school fielding and so deadly the bowling that Stratford lost 5 wickets for 8 runs before they consolidated their position and were finally dismissed for 39 runs. Following this triumph the eleven are anticipating further victories in the future.

The following boys have represented the school:—Adkins, Evans, Holifield, Hunt i, Jones i, Steveni i, Bamford, Mills, Brookes, Savage i, Blundell ii, Buckley and Baylis.

**RESULTS**

A.G.S.	v	Evesham P.H.G.S.	(Away)	Lost, 37—38 for 6
	v	Stratford K.E.S.	(Away)	Lost, 47—64
	v	Redditch C.H.S.	(Away)	Lost, 51—53 for 3
	v	Stratford K.E.S.	(Home)	Won, 72—39
	v	Bromsgrove C.H.S.	(Away)	Lost, 32—33 for 4
	v	Evesham P.H.G.S.	(Home)	Lost, 21—22 for 3
	v	Redditch C.H.S.	(Home)	Lost, 42—44 for 7

**Sides Matches:** Jackals 109, Tomtits 38; Brownies 11, Jackals 14 for 4

## TENNIS 1948

*Captain and Secretary:* M. ROWLAND.

This term we have had to make some changes in the tennis team, as three of our last year's team have left. We have however managed to get a fairly strong team together, and there is a second VI in the process of formation. Up till now the Second VI has not had a chance to justify itself as, much to our disappointment, our two matches against Chipping Campden have been cancelled.

In our first match against Evesham P.H.G.S., the first team lost, mainly because of its lack of confidence in its play, but we hope in our next match against Redditch to have regained our confidence and to secure a win.

As last year, we have started the challenge system, and this gives the girls a chance to play a match of five games in the lunch hour.

The 1st VI has been J. Preston, M. Rowland; J. Savage, J. Kerby; S. Goulbourne, B. Jaques.

### RESULTS

A.G.S. 1st VI	v	Evesham P.H.G.S.	(Away)	Lost, 2 sets—7 sets
	v	Redditch C.H.S.	(Away)	Lost, 0 sets—9 sets
	v	Evesham P.H.G.S.	(Home)	Won, 6 sets—3 sets
	v	Worcester C.H.S.	(Away)	Lost, 4 sets—5 sets
	v	Redditch C.H.S.	(Home)	Lost, 2 sets—7 sets
2nd VI	v	Worcester C.H.S.	(Away)	Lost, 0 sets—7 sets

M.R.

### ROUNDERS

This term we have organised two rounders teams, a senior team of over fifteen years and a junior team of under fifteen. Their first two matches had to be cancelled, but as the result of regular practice during the past few weeks they were able, though not to win, to put up a good fight against their Redditch opponents in their matches at Redditch.

### RESULTS

A.G.S. 1st	v	Redditch C.H.S.	(Away)	Drawn, 1—1
	v	Worcester C.H.S.	(Away)	Lost, 1—5
	v	Redditch C.H.S.	(Home)	Lost, 4—15
2nd	v	Redditch C.H.S.	(Away)	Lost, 1½—3½
	v	Redditch C.H.S.	(Home)	Lost, 1—3

M.R.

### SUPPLEMENTARY RESULTS

The following matches were played too late for their results to be included in the respective reports last term:—

#### FOOTBALL

A.G.S.	v	Brömsgrove C.H.S.	(Away)	Lost, 1—5
	v	Redditch C.H.S.	(Home)	Lost, 0—6

**HOCKEY**

A.G.S. 1st XI	<i>v</i>	Worcester C.H.S. 1st XI	(Home)	Won,	4—0
	<i>v</i>	Ragley Ladies	(Home)	Drawn,	2—2
	<i>v</i>	Old Scholars	(Home)	Won,	5—1
A.G.S. 2nd XI	<i>v</i>	Worcester C.H.S. 2nd XI	(Home)	Won,	1—0

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**NETBALL**

A.G.S. Upp. V and VI	<i>v</i>	Chipping Campden G.S.	(Home)	Won,	23—11
1st VII	<i>v</i>	Redditch C.H.S. 1st VII	(Away)	Won,	8—6
2nd VII	<i>v</i>	Redditch C.H.S. 2nd VII	(Away)	Drawn,	11—11

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